

## Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 034796

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (CORRECTION OF CLASSIFICATION)

FOLL REPEAT CINCPAC 110612Z FEB 75 ACTIONOASD/PA WASHDC  
INFO SECSTATE JCS CNO CHINFO PORT LOUIS TANANARIVE NEW DELHI  
ISLAMABAD KUWAIT BANGKOK JAKARTA CANBERRA RANGOON DACCA SN  
COLOMBO CINCPACFLT KUALA LUMPUR COMIDEASTFOR COMSEVENTHFLT  
CTF SEVEN SEVEN CTG SEVEN SEVEN PT SEVEN CTF SEVEN THREE USS  
ENTERPRISE USS CAMDEN 11 FEB 75 QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L//J7425/J740 SENDS

DELIVER DURING DUTY HOURS TO AMERICAN EMBASSIES

SUBJ: MAURITIUS DISASTER RELIEF NEWS RELEASE (U)

1. (C) RECOMMEND FOLLOWING NEWS RELEASE FOR USE BY OASD/PA AS  
INITIAL ANNOUNCEMENT OF U.S. DISASTER RELIEF ASSISTANCE TO  
GOVERNMENT OF MAURITIUS. RELEASE IS BASED ON FOLLOWING ASSUMPTIONS:

A. BY TIME OF INITIAL ANNOUNCEMENT, USS ENTERPRISE IS AT  
ANCHOR AT PORT LOUIS.

B. SOME RELIEF SUPPLIES FOR MAURITIUS WILL BE STAGED THROUGH  
DIEGO GARCIA.

2. (C) PROPOSED RELEASE. QUOTE. U.S. NAVY UNITS IN THE INDIAN OCEAN  
ARE CURRENTLY PROVIDING DISASTER RELIEF ASSISTANCE IN RESPONSE TO  
A REQUEST FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF MAURITIUS IN THE WAKE OF CYCLONE  
GERVAISE, DESCRIBED AS THE WORST CYCLONE DISASTER IN MAURITIUS IN  
FIFTEEN YEARS. PARA. THE ATTACK CARRIER ENTERPRISE IS NOW AT  
ANCHOR AT PORT LOUIS, MAURITIUS, AND OTHER UNITS OF THE U.S.  
SEVENTH FLEET ARE NEARBY TO ASSIST. IN ADDITION, U.S. MILITARY  
PERSONNEL ON THE ISLAND OF DIEGO GARCIA ARE STANDING BY TO SUPPORT  
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AIRLIFT OF VITAL SUPPLIES TO MAURITIUS. PARA. U.S. ASSISTANCE TO

THE STORM-TORN ISLAND BEGAN ON SATURDAY (8 FEB), TWO DAYS AFTER THE CYCLONE HIT, WHEN THE FAST COMBAT SUPPORT SHIP USS CAMDEN BEGAN DISASTER RELIEF OPERATIONS. PARA. THE ISLAND NATION OF 900,000 PEOPLE, LOCATED 500 MILES EAST OF THE MALAGASY REPUBLIC (FORMERLY MADAGASCAR), WAS STRUCK LAST THURSDAY BY THE CYCLONE. PARA. U.S. AMBASSADOR PHILIP MANHARD CALLED IT THE WORST CYCLONE DISASTER THERE SINCE CYCLONE CAROL DEVASTATED THE ISLAND IN 1960. GERVAISE LEFT AT LEAST SEVEN DEAD, THOUSANDS OF HOMES AND BUILDINGS DESTROYED, AND POWER, COMMUNICATIONS AND WATER SYSTEMS SEVERELY DAMAGED. PARA. USS CAMDEN, WHICH HAD BEEN SCHEDULED TO MAKE A CREW REST AND RECREATION CALL FRIDAY (7 FEB) AT PORT LOUIS, WAS DELAYED WHILE HEAVY WINDS AND SEAS SUBSIDED. SHE MOORED IN THE OUTER HARBOR ON SATURDAY TO BEGIN RELIEF OPERATIONS AFTER BEING AT SEA FOR A MONTH WITH A SEVENTH FLEET TASK GROUP IN THE INDIAN OCEAN. PARA. BY THE END OF THE FIRST DAY, CAMDEN PERSONNEL HAD ASSISTED IN RESTORATION OF ELECTRICAL POWER AND REPAIR OF COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS. HELICOPTERS FROM THE SHIP COMPLETED A SURVEY OF THE ISLAND'S POWER LINE NETWORK AND SUFFICIENT REPAIR OF NAVIGATIONAL EQUIPMENT AT PLAISANCE AIRPORT WAS ACCOMPLISHED IN COLLOBORATION WITH THE BRITISH COMMUNICATIONS STATION TO PERMIT LIMITED USE OF THE AIRFIELD. PARA. OTHER ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY CAMDEN PERSONNEL INCLUDED RECONSTRUCTION OF THE ROOF OF THE CHILDREN'S WARD OF THE MAIN HOSPITAL, WHICH HAD BEEN LOST IN THE STORM, DONATION OF BLOOD BY 40 MEN TO THREE HOSPITALS, AND DELIVERY OF 500 POUNDS OF FRESH BREAD AND 8,000 GALLONS OF POWDERED MILK FOR DISTRIBUTION TO REFUGEE CAMPS, DAMAGED ORPHANAGES AND HOMES FOR THE AGED. PARA. USS ENTERPRISE TOOK CAMDEN'S PLACE AT THE PORT LOUIS ANCHORAGE TODAY (11 FEB) TO PROVIDE AN INCREASED SUPPORT CAPABILITY TO THE HUMANITARIAN EFFORTS. OTHER U.S. NAVY SHIPS UNDERWAY IN THE AREA AND READY TO ASSIST INCLUDE THE CRUISER USS LONG BEACH, THE DESTROYER ESCORT USS RATHBURNE, THE GUIDED MISSILE DESTROYER USS BEWJAMIN STODDERT, THE COMBAT STORES SHIP USS MARS, AND THE MILITARY SEALIFT COMMAND OILER USNS PASSUMPSIC. PARA. THE HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE MADE BY U.S. FORCES TO THE GOVERNMENT OF MAURITIUS IS PART OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT'S AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT (AID) PROGRAM. UNQUOTE.

3. (U) FOR INFO ADDEES: FOREGOING IS NOT FOR RELEASE UNTIL APPROVED BY OASD/PA.

GDS: 1981 OR UPON PUBLIC RELEASEO

UNQUOTE INGERSOLL

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